

LONG ISLAND FORUM



Dosoris, Glen Cove, Front View of Old Homestead That Stood
Until 1940's. — See story Page 65

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FOR LONG ISLANDERS EVERYWHERE

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PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor
Contributing Editors

Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.
 Malcolm M. Willey, Ph.D.
 John C. Huden, Ph.D.
 Julian Denton Smith, Nature

Tel. AMityville 4-0554

Nativity Not Important

Although I am not a native Long Islander, I eagerly await each issue of The Forum. The historic sketches are not only informative to a "new comer", but I find them highly entertaining and very interesting. Long Island certainly has grown far away from the quaint and arduous days of long ago. I am sure native Long Islanders get much enjoyment in refreshing memories of the days of their hardy ancestors and for we newcomers, we need the information, to impress upon us the trials suffered in placing each rock in the foundation upon which Historic Long Island stands. You are doing a real job with the Forum, and I hope it is read by thousands and cherished as I do.

Frank G. Gregory, Mgr.-Ed.
 The Baldwin Citizen
 Baldwin.

Note: No newcomer is Editor Gregory. His public service to his community and county goes back a good many years. Edi.

Two Old Photos

I have a photo of a corner store and beside it a low stone building bearing the name "North Side Bank 1888". There is a note on photo which reads "store C. H. T. Sons.—Ex W. Tiebout."

Another photo is a monument, in rural setting, on which may be read: "1883. In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes", and above this the names of Henry M. Wiggins, Chat-ham Corwin and Wm. S. E. Stratton.

I believe these photos were taken in the 1890's. Could some reader tell me the locations and anything else about them?

Arthur O. Henry
 Box 805, Amityville

Kind Words

I look forward to each issue of the Forum. It is an extremely interesting publication and one that each Long Islander would benefit by reading. Myron H. Luke. West-bury.

Note: Dr. Luke, of Hofstra faculty, is editor of the Nassau County Historical Society's quarterly Journal. Edi.

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Clinton Academy, East Hampton

CLINTON ACADEMY, named for Governor George Clinton, was the outstanding school of old East Hampton. Built in 1784, opened in 1785, chartered in 1787, it was the first academical institution in New York under state supervision. Dr. Buell was instrumental in its organization and building. There are in the Long Island collection two charming kindly letters from him, written to friends who invited him for a visit; in one he explains why he cannot go: the supervision of building the academy so intrigued him. He says, in part: "I was so much fearing some capital error in that Eli-gent building that I thought best to forego a present pleasure rather than to sustain a future injury."

The first teachers were Jabez Peck, master of the classical department, and William Payne, (father of John Howard Payne) as master of English and writing. There was an average of 80 students for the first 40 years.

A member of the first class of East Hampton union school chose "Old East Hampton" as the subject of her oration. It was given in the form of a story told to her grandchildren. She gathered much of her material from old local scrapbooks, the part referring to the academy was this:

"The perils, insults and injuries which the East Hampton people had suffered during the war were now over and they rejoiced in their freedom * * As if in proof of their renewed strength, in 1784 Clinton Academy was built. Students flocked from all parts, including the West India Islands * * * The plays they gave were of the finest. Their library contained fine books on history, philosophy, geography, navigation, economics, travel and the English clas-

Mary E. Bell

sics. No dime novels here—no sensation stories, but reading to inform and build up an intellectual race. And the academy and its library made their mark on the men and women of East Hampton."

Henry Hedges, the historian, waxes poetic over it. In his "Memories of a Long Life," we read "Clinton Academy was the Educational Torch that illuminated the intellect of our town. Mind on mind like star on star, shone resplendent in its air."

Governor Clinton presented the bell during his second term. He came for the opening. It was a thrilling event for the town. Dr. John Sage has left his memory of it. It brings the day quite close.

"I remember the governor's visit to East Hampton. It made a great stir in the town and as the academy was the first place he was to present himself it was there the people congregated. The boys were ordered to be in line in front of the academy and everybody awaited the arrival which was to be heralded by

the blowing of a horn as the stage entered Buel lane. The stage horn sounded, the bell rung, and the stage came into view at the turning of the lane into the street; the scholars waved their hats and hurrahed! After this a boy stepped forward and pronounced an address of welcome to the governor. Samuel Huntting was the proud orator. He was a handsome boy and he did it admirably."

It was planned to have this anniversary an annual event.

The old bell rang a curfew each evening at 9 o'clock. The highwater year was 1815 — Teachers, Abraham Parsons and Russell Green. There were 156 students, 400 books in the library; apparatus: telescope, microscope, air-pump, quadrant, surveyor's compass, and a small orrery.

The courses included any branches of a classical education according to instructions from the trustees. Also geography, navigation, surveying, or any branch of mathematics applied for.

The English academical department included miscellaneous subjects, as writing,



Clinton Academy, From Watercolor by Cyril A. Lewis

arithmetic of accountantship, reading, English grammar, rhetoric, composition, sentimental and epistolary, and the French language.

The common school taught reading, orthography, penmanship, and arithmetic. Prices of tuition were graded to suit the course.

In the season for fires the students had to pay the cost of firewood. Board at one time was a dollar a week.

"Each spring term closed with dramatic performances termed the exhibition, the crowning event of the year to which all eyes looked, for which all hearts beat."

People drove 30 and 40 miles to see these exhibitions. A Clinton boy who once wrote a letter to *The Star*, recalled hearing the Greek tragedy of Cato, remarkably well presented there under the management of Mr. Weed, a popular teacher. Mary Rockwell spoke very well of this instructor.

William Payne says: "Rev. Samuel Buell daily performed public prayers in the academy and gave every Saturday a lecture on theology."

The academy ceased to report to the Regents in 1868. Causes of decline suggested are neglect of patrons, waning of interest, employing teachers too young and incompetent, too inexperienced. In 1843 J. D. Gardiner wrote a strong plea for renewal of interest and support. But it was just one of those things that had to be. Probably the underlying cause was the growing feeling of education for all, and the amazing growth of Public Schools.

We who have lived through the building of two schoolhouses, can realize that the builders of the Academy did not escape the criticism of some contemporaries. The dramatic performances especially came under the ban. After an exhibition, once, there came one of our wild Long Island storms, tearing things up and down our street.

Continued on page 66

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Historic Dosoris, Glen Cove

THE site of Glen Cove as originally purchased from the Indians and that area known as Dosoris but now absorbed within the limits of the city of Glen Cove were separately bought by various parties from the aborigines during the year 1668. Dosoris was first acquired by Robert Williams, the so-called "Father of Hicksville". Early in the 1700's and through various family transactions one Abigail Taylor, a direct descendant of Williams, and her husband the Rev. Benjamin Woolsey established the homestead known as Dosoris on a tract of about a thousand acres.

Through successive generations and marriages the homestead in time became the property and home of a great patriot by name of Coles. According to the story, "A Sturdy Patriot", by Maria McIntosh Cox, a direct descendant of Coles, in *The Youth's Companion* of February 9, 1893, George Washington once visited the homestead in order to personally convey to Coles a citation for great courage and patriotism in defiance of the King's forces.

The old Dosoris homestead with additions and changes was occupied until its razing in 1940. The Forum's mention of the Rev. Benjamin Woolsey of Setauket and the Mount family of Stony Brook tie in closely with Dosoris where the Woolsey private burying ground occupied a part of the estate until the transfer of most of the remains and markers to a plot directly at the northerly end of Dosoris lane, where some interesting old stones are still to be seen.

After 1850 when the homestead with reduced grounds became the property of George James Price there prevailed a direct tie between Dosoris and the Mount family. Mr. Price, a member of the firm of

Carl Kohler

Editor's Note

Mr. Kohler, retired steel and construction inspector of the LIRR, knows the island from end to end for, responsible to both the railroad and the Public Service Commission, he walked the entire mileage of the system's tracks several times a year. As a student of nature as well as local history, he was, he writes, "ideally employed some years before the island had its face lifted."

Thompson & Price, constructors of such large works as the New York City water reservoir, the original buildings on Blackwell's Island, and other important undertakings, frequently resided at Dosoris during his development of the estate.

Later he made it his permanent home before the railroad had established its Oyster Bay Branch. For this reason he and other members of the Price family rode the mainline to Ronkonkoma where they would be met by the Mounts' carriage for a visit at their Stony Brook home. Then they would be driven to Dosoris accompanied by some of the Mount family

who became their guests for a time.

That famous painting titled "Just in Tune" by William Sidney Mount graced the walls of Dosoris until the property changed hands in the 1930's. John, one of the four Mount brothers, was an artist in his own right and during long visits at Dosoris he applied his skill as a pastime. Thus he was responsible for much of the fine paneling, an ornamental oak staircase with railings, and other exquisite woodwork about the house.

There still exists much photographic material and structural evidence of the historic area known as Dosoris. A brick from the original chimney bears the initials M.T.W. (Melancthon Taylor Woolsey), dated 1745. Previous to the razing of the homestead in 1940, there was, I can recall, a hand-drawn shingle on its north face which bore the same initials and approximate date.

George James Price Sr., who took title to Dosoris homestead and about 110 acres in 1850, had a number of sons and daughters. George James



Looking Over Dosoris Pond, Showing Morgan Island at Upper Left

Jr. was a distinguished naturalist and scientist who took special delight in instructing young people in the ways of nature. As one of those young people, I speak with first-hand knowledge of the good work he performed. Having made a great collection of Indian arrowpoints, implements and other artifacts, he eventually donated it to a large New York City museum.

Another son of George James Price Sr. was given the task of superintending the lowering of the Obelisk and transporting it from Egypt to New York, in 1880. But it is of Dosoris that I wish to write. I recently looked through the old Woolsey cemetery, mentioned above, and found stones dated from 1650 to 1750. They might have been milestones reminding one that after Robert Williams acquired the property from the Matinecoc Indians in 1668, there came other transactions and finally John Taylor devised the tract to his daughter Abigail who in 1714 married the Rev. Benjamin Woolsey which accounts for the Latin Dos-Oxoris meaning Wife's Dowry.

In 1760 a portion of the tract was sold to John Butler, and in 1770 the remainder to Nathaniel Coles who married John Butler's daughter and reclaimed the original area which he bequeathed to John Butler Coles and General Nathaniel Coles. Nearly a century later, in 1850, George James Price Sr. purchased the homestead and about 110 acres from Oliver Coles. Surely Dosoris deserves a place of prominence in the history of what is now the County of Nassau.

Welcome Words These

I enjoy every issue of the Forum, and regret each month that I don't teach on Long Island. What a nugget the Long Island Forum is for all Long Island teachers! I wish I had been able to read something like the Forum when I was going thru school. I would not now be wishing to relive my life on Long Island.

Miss Helen R. Braem
Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

Clinton Academy

Continued from page 64

One old lady "objecter" said "there! It's that plague-y academy."

A country is indelibly stamped by its early colonies — the colonies by their churches and schools. Howell, a state librarian writes: "There is no question but that this academy has been a big factor in moulding the character of the town. The general result is that the villagers are a refined and cultured people."

The 12 men who gave more than half of the cost of the building were Samuel Buell, Nathan Gardiner, Samuel Hutchinson, John Miller jr., Jeremiah Osborne, David Mulford, Seth Barns, Aaron Isaacs, Reuben Hedges, Elisha Mulford, Recompeness Sherrill, and Daniel Hedges.

Each one deserves a place in our memory; especially does Doctor Buell, the kind'y old pastor, who did so much for the academy and for the whole town, merit a place of honor in East Hampton's "Hall of Fame."

Cance Place without Hercules is sad, Ezra H. Young, Orient. (Which refers to the old Ohio's firehead, now gracing the roadside at Stony Brook. Edi.)

I have been a subscriber to the Long Island Forum for a number of years. I enjoy reading it and look forward to its coming each month. John H. Aldrich, Sag Harbor.

I need not tell you how happy I am to renew my subscription. (Miss) Elizabeth R. Brown, East Hampton.

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Corchaug Indian Fort

IN 1524 Giovanni Verrazano sailed northward along the Atlantic coast. He made several stops, one of which seems to have been somewhere on the east end of Long Island. There he visited an Algonquian Village, possibly the "old" fort section of Montauk. He wrote: "We saw their houses made in circular or round forme 10 or 12 paces in compass, made with halfe circles of timber, covered with mattes of straw which save them from wind and raine." The "halfe circles of timber" were probably standing saplings, pulled to a common center and tied so as to make a dome-shaped frame.

Unfortunately no contemporary pictures of L. I. Indian dwellings or forts have been preserved. Some drawings must have been made by such stalwarts as Stephen Good-year of Ashamomoque (near Greenport), Abraham Pierson of Southampton, William James of East Hampton, and Samson Occum of Montauk. If so, the drawings are lost, and we must depend upon word-pictures.

The chief characteristics of Indian forts were first completely described by Lahontan in 1703, who wrote these generalizations about structures near New York: "Their villages are Fortified with double Palissadoes of very hard Wood, which are as thick as one's Thigh, and fifteen Foot high, with little squares about the middle of the cour-tines."

The late John H. Morice wrote in Bailey's Long Island History of several fortified villages ranging from Naiack (Fort Hamilton) all the way east to Cutchogue and Montauk. Probably there were other "palissadoes". Lingering legends in Wegwagoneck (Sag Harbor), Three-Mile Harbor and Oysterponds (Orient) tell of Indian forts at practically every high place

Dr. John C. Huden and

Dr. Arthur F. Tuthill

Editor's Note

Dr. Huden is a native of Sag Harbor and Dr. Tuthill, a native of Southold Town. Both, too, are professors on the faculty of the University of Vermont. Their educational activities in the Granite State, however, have never lessened their interest in L.I. history.

easily accessible to a good spring.

Harlow Payne, son of Horth Haven's illustrious Jesse Foster Payne, has told the writer of finding artifacts near Otter Pond (Mashashimuet, the place of great springs) while the elder Payne was directing the construction work at Mashashimuet Park. Charles Parks, son of William Wallace Tooker's caretaker, years ago told this writer that Mr. Tooker had evidence of a Montauk or Shinnecock fort at Conkling's Point, near Greenport, now occupied by the Cor

Maria Convent.

In his "Indian Place-Names" Mr. Tooker wrote (1911): "The march of improvements, the encroachment of the sea * * have all contributed their part toward obliterating the great Meadows at Sag Harbor." Probably the remains of the fortified village of Wegwagoneck were carted away as fill when East Water street was laid out. Furthermore, the late George Bennett often said that he could remember "chewed up Indian stuff spewed out by mud-diggers" when the breakwater was built out from Conkling's Point early in this century.

Again drawing on Tooker, we read: "The first fort of which we have any knowledge is mentioned in the Montauk deed of 1662, the bounds of which went west to where the old Indian fort stood, east of Napeague. The new fort, still standing in 1862, was located on what is still (1911) called Fort Hill, at Fort Pond, over-

Continued on page 72



Long Island Indian Village Sketched by Lewis C. Weickum

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Horton Books Wanted

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Kilma Data Wanted

Wanted, any information about William Sawtelle Kilmer, born 1883, living on Long Island in 1916 when his father, Rev. Charles Kilmer, died at Binghampton, N. Y. Write Emily Weiss, 1032 North Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Illinois. (5)

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Breslau's Old Buildings

Your unusual cover picture on the March issue showing the buildings of the 1870's in Lindenhurst when it was known as Breslau prompts me to add a little information.

The low building in the lower lefthand corner was the depot and beyond it the steeple was that of the Lutheran Church. Next right building, with cupola, was Gieste's Hotel. Then to the right stood the three-story bank building. Beside it to the right was the Wagner Building and then, at far right, Nehring's Hotel.

Also I am told by Mr. Theodore Voelker of Lindenhurst that the tallest of the buildings in front of the steeple, showing ten windows, was Dietz's cigar factory; that the building in background, between the bank and Nehring's, was the Cheney Pond cigar factory which was moved to Amityville to become the old Weiss department store in Triangle Place (west side). Part of it also became a bicycle shop, corner Park avenue and Ireland place, now the Bank of Amityville parking lot.

Hugo C. Waldau Jr.
Amityville

Greenport It Is

The picture on page 53 of the March Forum is of Sterling Creek, Greenport, and not Southold as the caption read.

Mrs. Joseph A. Wells
Upper Montclair, N. J.

Note: Our omission was caught by others. It should have read: Southold Town. Edi.

L. I. Forum Index

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Goshen's Historic Track

Harry H. Smith of Goshen, treasurer of the Orange County Driving Park Association and long-time subscriber of the Forum, sends us an interesting booklet on Goshen's Historic Track, one of the State's most picturesque half-mile ovals devoted to harness racing. Many thanks.

Enjoy the magazine very much.
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Beetlebung Trees

THE fantastic title of "Island's Own Holly" given to our well-known and admired pepperidge trees, most interestingly corrected by Julian D. Smith in your December 1953 issue, reminds me of another curious title given to these trees that I discovered while on Martha's Vineyard Island.

At a junction of three roads approaching Menemsha Harbor, a Massachusetts State Highway sign heralds "Beetlebung Corners". I asked a native nearby how the intersection got the name of Beetlebung. "Why, from them trees," said he, "the beetlebungs". Having a general acquaintance with trees of North America, that stumped me but the adjacent small grove of trees looked familiar.

In the lobster shack down at the Harbor I met three old-time Vineyarders and asked them about beetlebung trees.

"Them's great beetlebungs," they said and one old codger added that they made fine rollers for beaching boats and for house-moving as they did not splinter. So I sought information at Edgartown's library. Mrs. Beetle is the librarian and when I made my inquiry she pleaded not guilty as to the trees being named after her.

"All I know," she said, "they are of the Tupelo family". I looked into the horticultural encyclopedia and found that the black-gum (*Nyssa Sylvatica*) had a gnarled grain and was used for hubs of wheels, boat rollers, mallet heads and pestles, and was commonly called Pepperidge tree.

I was getting warm but still curious so I sent inquiries about beetlebungs to the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard and to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Neither could

Meade C. Dobson

tell me the origin of the name. Then I met Henry Hough, editor of the Vineyard Gazette, and explained my botanical quandary. Here's how he, a student of folk and whaling lore, ascribes the origin of the name.

"The old whalers of more than a hundred years ago, out of Edgartown," he said, "always took on each voyage a quantity of beetles, old English for clubs or mallets all in one piece, cut from the tough pepperidge trees abounding here. And for what purpose? Why, to drive bungs in the whale oil barrels. They lasted a long time."

And so, by colloquial usage of more than 100 years the name of Beetlebung has been

fastened on *Nyssa Sylvatica* on Martha's Vineyard.

The Ship Black Hawk

I wonder if any of your readers knows anything about the ship Black Hawk which sailed out of New York during the Gold Rush, bound for San Francisco. My great-uncle Timothy Rowley was mate of the Hawk, and neither the ship nor any of her crew has ever been heard from since.

Some years later, it was rumored that her stern-piece bearing all or part of the name was found on the coast of Patagonia (Argentina), and the supposition was that either all hands on board were drowned or those who managed to reach shore might have been killed by natives.

Can anyone tell me anything at all about the Black Hawk?

Evelyn Rowley Meier
Wading River

I always devour the Forum at once, greedily. George V. Edwards, Riverhead.



Pepperidge Tree, Glen Cove. Photo by Carl Kohler

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Lawrence Nearly 100

The village of Lawrence on the Rockaway peninsula, the home of historic Rock Hall about which the Forum has had articles from time to time, is less than a century old. Rock Hall was built in 1767 by an Englishman from the island of Antigua, Josiah Martin, and is now owned and operated by the Town of Hempstead as a public museum. It is one of the island's outstanding mansions of the colonial period. The village may celebrate its 100th anniversary as a community next year.

It is among a number of suburban communities in Nassau County that lay quite undeveloped except for scattered farmhouses, and in the case of Lawrence, a colonial estate, for some two centuries after the founding of the town to which they belong.

Besides Rock Hall, the Clinton Pettit farm and the Wood farm, there was little in the Lawrence area when in 1855 it was purchased in its entirety except for the Rock Hall property by three brothers, Newbold, Alfred and George Lawrence who thereupon bestowed their family name upon it. Their announced plan was to found a summer resort of very high social standards for New York and Brooklyn businessmen and their families. The success of their plan seemed assured when the South Side Railroad Company, forerunner of the LIRR, agreed to provide service to the newborn village if its promoters would donate the necessary land from their holdings. This was done and an attractive station was erected.

The Lawrences also retained some of the country's leading

Continued on next page

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Lawrence Nearly 100

Continued From Page 70

architects to prepare plans of the high class homes which alone might be built here. Needless to say each individual home site had to be of considerable size to permit of major landscaping, and of course all sorts of restrictions were placed on land and buildings alike.

Among those who located homes at Lawrence were a number of wealthy socialites including James R. Keene, Foxhall Keene, Daniel D. Lord and Franklin B. Lord. Just as the enterprise got well started, however, financial stress, followed by the Civil War, intervened and everything came to a standstill in the little village except for those who had already come to live there.

After the war came a nationwide depression, and it was not until about 1875 that any marked interest was shown in the further development of the community. In that year a number of home plots were sold for as little as \$100 and for a time the future looked dark for the village of Lawrence.

Nevertheless, by 1886 these \$100 plots were being purchased by a very desirable class of New York businessmen for fifty times that amount, and within a short time the village contained many imposing mansions which ranged in value from thirty to \$150,000. By then the home-owners had taken things into their own hands and in 1897 the village was incorporated. The very next year, however, when Nassau County was erected and the city of Greater New York annexed the far end of the Rockaway peninsula it included a sizeable portion of the village of Lawrence in its so-called "grab".

Be it said to the credit of Nassau County's first board of supervisors, it at once sponsored legislation providing for the return to the county of the city-annexed part of Lawrence. With this accomplished, Lawrence again became a choice section of the town of Hempstead.

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looking the bay. The very word Montauk means fortified place."

The most definitive work on eastern Long Island Indian forts is Ralph Solecki's Bulletin 24 of the Connecticut Archaeological Society. In reading this captivating document one is moved to mourn that Mr. Solecki could never have met William Wallace Tooker, and that the latter had never been trained as an archaeologist as Mr. Solecki had been. Of course Mr. Solecki has drawn upon Tooker's writings. He tells how Mr. Tooker visited the new Montauk fort site in 1885 and "measured the visible outlines carefully." Solecki concludes his notation on the Montauk fortifications by saying (sadly, it would seem): "at present there is no trace of the fort as a large hotel is situated about where it had been." Nor could he find in

1947 any trace of the old fort in the Hither Hills, anciently known as Mum-mon-ock, "the far-off-seen-land". So he crossed off the forts at Montauk.

In 1946 Mr. Solecki visited Fort Hill at Shinnecock. He wrote: "Unfortunately the construction of a large dwelling on the hill has apparently obliterated all surface evidence of aboriginal occupation." So he crossed off Shinnecock, "the level p'ain."

Mashomack, a neck of land on Shelter Island, was once thought to be a Manhasset fort-site. The name Mashomack was formerly supposed to mean "great stockade place" but Mr. Solecki said that the site of Mashomack fort is not known. This writer believes that there was an Indian fort on Shelter Island Sound (Sag Harbor Bay) excepting possibly at Weg-wagonock. Mr. William Wal-

lace Tooker was undeniably correct when he translated Mashomack as "canoe landing (and departing) place".

Those who believe that there was a fort at Mashomack or at nearby Cedar Point have overlooked the Algonquins' greatest care when locating a palisade—the availability of plenty of good fresh water. Pog-gaticut, Wyandanch's predecessor as grand sachem of L. I., would have been laughed to shame if he had passed up Smith's Cove or Nichols' Point for Mashomack as a fort-site, a fortified stockade. Mr. Solecki just wrote it off, which was a good idea.

While Ralph Solecki may have been disappointed or baffled (or both) by the disappearance of fort-sites at Montauk, Shinnecock and Sag Harbor, as well as the non-appearance of a Mashomack

Continued on page 76

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School Days of Long Ago

MR. JOHN MOUNT wrote many years ago that when he attended the Setauket school it stood on the spot now occupied by the sheds of Caroline Church. It was built by the town in 1718 at a cost of 34 pounds and in the late 1860's was sold and moved to a plot opposite the home of the late Miss Julia Smith to become a dwelling. There it still stands—a monument to its sturdy builders of well over 200 years ago.

According to Mr. Mount, in his time parents had to provide the books, little ones using a spelling-book, slate and pencil and older ones a reader, geography, arithmetic and grammar. As the big boys worked in summer, a woman teacher could then handle the class, but in winter it took a man, and a strong one, for besides teaching he had to serve as janitor. The big boys, however, had to keep the drinking pails supplied with water from the nearby well.

Punishment was then meted out according to size, the larger boys being whipped on the hands, the small boys being spanked and the little girls having to stand in the centre of the room holding a ruler in both hands. How they must have hated that. During recess, while the big fellows played ball, the smaller ones went in for marbles and the girls rolled hoops or jumped rope.

There was one cold frosty morning, wrote Mr. Mount, when the schoolmaster, upon lighting the stove, soon found the room so dense with smoke that the class had to be dismissed. Having cleared out the stove and the pipe that ran across the room, he tried again, but with no better results. So he procured a ladder and climbed to the roof, to the evident amusement of some of the older boys on the ground.

Kate Wheeler Strong

When from the chimney he pulled out a large batch of wet seaweed, one of the boys remarked, "That must have been a very high tide, Mister, to land that seaweed up there." Naturally, the schoolmaster was furious, but he never did discover the culprit. I only hope he made those boys clean up the schoolroom, for it must have been a nasty job.

Mr. Mount also wrote about the year 1816 which was called "1816-and-froze-to-death" for here on Long Island and throughout New England every month of that year had frost. On the mill stream at Old Field, men building the

ship Mechanic during the summer months had to wear overcoats and mittens. The only places I've heard of where seedcorn could be procured the following spring for planting were my great - great - grandfather Selah Strong's farm on Strong's Neck and a farm at Benjamintown on the southside of the island. In both places, presumably, the salty atmosphere had provided some protection during that mighty cold year of 1816.

Mr. Hall and I always enjoy the Forum, which has been of great assistance in my research work. We wish you continued success. (Mrs.) Martha K. Hall, Librarian, Huntington Historical Society.



An Old Schoolhouse, Sketched by Bob Wolpert

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A fashion show to be presented by the Traphagen School of Fashion will be the program feature at a luncheon for the benefit of Multiple Sclerosis Fund which the Charis League will give in the Grand Ballroom at the Hotel Astor, Saturday, April 10.

"Easter at the Astor—Now and 50 Years Ago" will be the theme of the showing which will include both modern and turn-of-the-century fashions. Styles for spring and summer 1954 are being lent by Nettie Rosenstein, Carolyn Schnur, Robert Rosenfeld (designed by Joseph Whitehead),

Leyton Sportswear, Joytime Frocks and others, as well as children's fashions by Helen Lee of Youngland and "Little Gal Glamour" dresses from Ruth Originals; and in all of these houses former Traphagen students staff the designing rooms. Spring clothes created by current students at Traphagen will augment the fashions from the trade, and all will be modeled by attractive students of the school from the classes in fashion design, illustration and interior decor.

Pictured here, present Traphagen student Carmen Rosario wears the suit she made, adapted from the Dutch doll's costume at right. Slim black skirt and scarlet jacket are of lightweight Forstmann wool. Hat and cummerbund are black kid, and the Dutchman's tobacco pouch became a "token bag" hanging at the waistline.

Old costumes will carry the show's theme back half a century to the early days of the Astor Hotel which opened in its present location at 45th and Broadway in 1904. Elegant and authentic dresses from the celebrated Museum Collection of the Traphagen School will show Easter finery of that day from glamorous grown-ups to entrancing 4-year-olds.

Tickets for the luncheon and fashion show (\$6 per person includes everything) are available from Miss Miriam Grossman, 2146 Brown Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.—phone Dewey 2-8393.

We certainly have enjoyed reading and discussing the interesting industry of the past as described in your pamphlet *Long Island Whalers*. Mrs. John H. Langlois, Amityville.

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Captain Corwin, Bark Leuka

In looking through the November Forum, I saw an item about Capt. Lewis J. Corwin, Master of the bark Leuka, having taken the first foreign cargo into Washington Territory in 1854—just 100 years ago. I am one of his sons, the youngest of five boys and three girls.

My father was one of the old-time whalers, and I believe he sailed all over the world before he settled down on the land. In 1849 he went to California as many others did, looking for gold, and I have a few flakes of gold that he brought home.

While in California he contracted "consumption" (TB today) so his companions out there sent him back to Long Island so he could pass away with his family. He did so, but he waited until he was ninety before it happened.

I was also greatly interested in the article *Whaling's Fruitful Forties*, and the very fine picture of our Presbyterian (Whalers') Church—a wonderful building.

Frank W. Corwin,
Sag Harbor.

We receive the Forum at The Lennox Shop and enjoy it very much. Mrs. H. Murray, Valley Stream.

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Paul Cuffee at Wading River

MUCH has been told and written about Paul Cuffee, the famed Indian preacher whose grave is prominently marked at the Canoe Place, in Hampton Bays, where he died.

Less, by far, has been told about his life in Wading River, where he was born and spent his youth, than about any other phase of his colorful story.

Paul was the second of the seven sons of Peter Cuffee, a native Indian of the Shinnecock or Shecock tribe. He was born at Wading River, in the Town of Brookhaven, on March 4, 1757.

His mother is described as an "eminently pious woman of color", who was for many years a respected member of the native Indian church in the village of his birth. His father was not a professor of religion in the accepted sense, although he was known to his family and associates as a "good man", and apparently was well liked by those who knew him.

Paul's grandfather, on his mother's side, was the Reverend Peter John, a faithful and successful preacher of the gospel among the Indians, and although he was not learned or eloquent, he had, by his zeal, piety and perseverance, gathered small churches together at Poosepatuck (Mastic), Islip and Wading River, and to them he regularly ministered.

At an early age, Paul was "bound out" to Major Frederick Hudson, a wealthy and influential citizen of the area, who was known both for his British sympathies and his

Evelyn Rowley Meier

lavish hospitality. Paul worked for Major Hudson, principally on farmland located in the central portion of the settlement, until the age of 21.

During that period he became addicted to the "pleasures of the revel and the midnight dance", according to some old records, and thereby caused his pious mother no little concern. She was unable to do much to check him in his wayward course, and no effort was made to train his mind in habits of virtue or literacy. This was partly due to the fact that he was living away from home, and it was not the custom to pay attention to the virtues of the bondsmen of that time. It may also be attributed to the fact that Paul was extremely headstrong, and had great resources of physical and mental energy to expend.

Possessed of a great degree of Indian cunning, with a

bright and lively imagination and a brand of salesmanship worthy of the twentieth century, he became a leader of a thoughtless band, which caused considerable comment in eighteenth century Wading River.

However, during the religious awakening which prevailed in Wading River about 1778 or 1779, his conviction of guilt became intense and he is said to have fallen to the ground before the church, overcome with remorse for the anxiety he had caused his mother, and the damage he may have done to his immortal soul.

In the surrender of his heart to the Lord Jesus, he later told his many followers, he found delightful relief, and also a suitable avenue for his inborn brilliance and energy. Like Saul, or Paul, he went forth and "preached unto Jesus", and from that time

Continued on Page 77



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Corchaug Fort

Continued from Page 72

bastion, he must have been pleasantly surprised and pleased by his outstanding success at Cutchogue. There he explored scientifically the long-known, fairly well-preserved Fort Corchaug.

Solecki writes: "The Corchaug fort was deserted prior to 1661 *** In Southold Town Records (1662) there is a fleeting reference to land 'lying north of Fourte Neck'. *** Fort Neck contains 200 acres (of which the fort enclosure comprises about three-quarters of an acre) pleasantly situated on the east side of the neck, close by a fine spring of pure water. *** Dr. William Wallace Tooker, the Long Island scholar, visited the fort in 1891 and made the laudable commentary that this historic site should be preserved and fenced."

Between 1936 and 1947 Mr. Solecki made more than sixty visits to Corchaug, "the principal place", which Mr. Tooker had declared to be abounding in shells, sherds, arrowpoints, etc. By means of test trenches

and other professional archaeological devices, Solecki too discovered potsherds, stone implements, pigment stones, aboriginal bone artifacts and European trade goods.

"Historic Fort Corchaug", he writes, "was apparently in existence when the first settlers arrived on the east end of Long Island. It was visited by the Dutch and English as shown in the records. There is evidence that Fort Corchaug had been occupied prehistorically, too," but that is another story.

Mr. Solecki wrote his bulletin in partial fulfillment of the requirements for his Master's degree in Anthropology, at Columbia University. Surely it was an important task well done.

Liked Whaling Story

Your article in the February issue on the Decline of Long Island Whaling was extremely interesting and I have heard considerable favorable comment on it.

George H. Peters
Freeport

Note: Mr. Peters is the author of *The Trees of Long Island*, sponsored by the L. I. Horticultural Society and now being sold by the Forum at \$1 postpaid.

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Monumental Work

Paul Cuffee

Continued from page 75

until his death, his life was devoted to the glory of God and the good of his fellow creatures.

Soon after this, he married Hannah, eldest daughter of Robin and Smila, also pious people of color, by whom he had seven children. In 1789 he moved from Wading River to the Moriches, although his itinerant career often kept him from home. He died of consumption on March 7, 1812, at the age of 55, and was buried at Canoe Place, his funeral service being rendered by the Reverend M. Bogert.

It is interesting to note that the grave of Paul Cuffee is marked conspicuously, with a fence to protect it from thoughtless traffic, and a stone to mark it, while the grave of the master, Major Hudson, is hidden in the brambles somewhere in the vicinity of his old home, unmarked by any visible stone at all.

Clammy Query

At the dinner table one evening we had quite an argument as to the sex life of the hard or round clam, some claiming there was no mate or female. Can you tell us how they spawn and propagate?

W. R. Hight,

C/o Dr. R. R. Gagione
Roslyn Heights

Note by J. D. Smith, Nature Editor: Vol. 30, No. 4, Clam, Quahog. Over 20 families of clams; many species. Very small eggs expelled into the water by female, hatch after fertilization in about 10 hours into shell-less free-swimming stage which lasts a day; shell-forming stage of 6 to 12 days follows. Settle to bottom and remain attached until $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long;

adults burrow. May live 4 to 5 years lengthening about 1 inch a year. From Cornell Leaflet.

L. I. Country Club

Among the old sporting organizations of Suffolk County is the Long Island Country Club whose spacious grounds, golf course, trout streams and clubhouse are located at Eastport. Just as the South Side Club at Great River grew out of a large area of natural hunting and fishing property owned by a single individual, one Liff Snedecor, guide and tavernkeeper, so the Eastport club came into being as a means of preserving the extensive Jayne farm as a place for wealthy city sportsmen to shoot and angle.

Both clubs were founded during the post-war years of the Rebellion, the South Side being the older. The actual founders of the Long Island Club were two of New York's leading barristers before, during and after the Civil War, William C. Barrett, a native of Ireland, who had come to America in 1846, and Judge Beebe of the

United States Circuit Court. Both were ardent sportsmen and became close friends, although Barrett was a leader in the Democratic party and Beebe equally influential in the councils of the then newly born GOP.

Together these men spent many a day at Eastport, hunting and fishing on the Jayne farm, and boarding at the big farmhouse. Sometimes Jayne took them duck-shooting on Moriches Bay and they found a good many bluefish in season. So enamored of the place did the two lawyers become that eventually, with a number of fellow sportsmen of ample means, they purchased the farm and Jayne's home became the clubhouse just as Liff Snedecor's tavern at Great River became the headquarters of the South Side Club.

It was not until some years later that the picturesque golf course was laid out on the Long Island Country Club's grounds, but the woods were stocked with quail and several brooks were stocked with speckled beauties. Also the sheltered cove, a natural yacht basin, was improved and equipped so that members might have a place to keep their sailboats, gunning ding-

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hies and fishing outfits for use on Moriches Bay.

Jayne's daughter married one George W. Tuthill who served as superintendent of the club for a time. He was followed in that capacity by their son, Herbert C. Tuthill who occupied the post for many years until his retirement.

On the grounds of the club for many years stood the so-called Tomb, said to be the last resting place of an Indian maiden and her paleface husband, the story of whose romance was told in the Forum for December 1943.

Men of Glen Cove

I enjoyed very much reading among others your article appearing in the February Forum and entitled "Decline of L.I. Whaling".

I notice on the last page of the issue that your subscriber and reader, one Daniel F. Apgar, cannot cite a business here in this part of Long Island that was in existence as far back as 1816 when the Dodge Undertaking establishment was founded.

This reminds me of the fact that in 1835 what is now known as J. C. Dodge & Son Inc. was founded by the same family that established the 1816 concern. Since 1835 the former has been under the same family management and one of the leading furniture stores on the Island. Herbert K. Dodge for many years has spent the summers at his cottage in Good Ground (to him not Hampton Bays). Speaking or rather writing about 1835 recalls to mind that that was the year in which probably the most disastrous fire in New York City's history occurred, resulting in the destruction of the entire city below Wall Street. Historians tell us that during the progress of the conflagration on that December night, cold approaching Arctic weather in intensity prevailed.

In one of your recent issues ap-

peared a letter from Horace K. T. Sherwood who was a former mayor of Glen Cove and is now spending the sunset of a colorful career in his retreat at Long Beach, California. I hope your readers will hear more from His Honor as he is a prolific writer. When he writes, he invariably knows what he is writing about.

I wonder how many of your readers will recall his unforgettable dad, the famous JKO, who in 1867 was to be found out in the wilds of Montana, then a territory, matching wits we have reason to believe with Clarke, Daly and other copper tycoons and with Hill the empire builder.

Before the turn of the century he returned east and became associated in various enterprises with such farsighted men of that day as Austin Corbin, Frederick W. Duntton, Michael J. Drummond, the Chapins (Chester W. and Alfred C.) and William R. Meneely. In 1903 he was the prime mover in the

founding of The Nassau Union Bank that recently merged with Glen Cove Trust Company.

At the turn of the century and for some years thereafter the Sherwoods were among the most prominent families along Nassau's once famous Gold Coast and who thru diversified and well planned philanthropies did much to make Glen Cove a better place in which to live.


John P. McCarthy
Counselor at Law
Glen Cove

My uncle enjoys the Forum very much. He recently passed his 92d birthday. Edwin S. Bellows, New Rochelle, N. Y.

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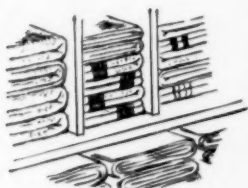
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Ghost Ships of 1754

There once existed among the hardy menhaden or bunker fishermen of Eastern Long Island a tradition about a strange phenomenon which several men of undoubted veracity declared they saw about ten in the forenoon on Feb. 3, 1754 between Gardiner's Island and Plum Island.

In the New York Gazette or Weekly Post Boy of March 18 of that year appeared a communication addressed to "Messrs Printers" and datelined Plumb Island, Feb. 4, 1754 in which "Eye Witnesses" were ready to attest to the truth of it.

The apparition they said "was to Appearance like three ships full rigged, with their sails spread, the largest of which had a Pendant at her Main-Top Mast Head; the Persons who saw it were so near them that they could plainly discern the Men upon the Quarter-Deck, as also their Yards, Tops, Blocks, Rigging, and other appurtenances belonging to ships; and in a few minutes they seemed to engage each other; they could see the Smoak of their guns, but hear no Report.

"In the Time of their engagement they put about several Times, and the large ship haul'd up her Courses; the whole was performed with the utmost Dexterity, as tho' they were navigated by the most skilful Mariners; and thus it continued for the space of a quarter of an hour and then by Degrees vanished away. As we look upon it to be a supernatural Production so the Consequences of it we shall not pretend to determine."

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood
Contributing Editor

Forum Articles Cited

In the list of historical articles in New York State publications during the last quarter of 1953, chosen as outstanding by James Taylor Dunn, Librarian of the State Historical Association, are included the following from the Long Island Forum:

Whaling's Fruitful Forties, by Paul Bailey; No Man's Land, Southampton, by Henry S. Manley; Wading River's Burying Ground, by Evelyn Rowley Meier; Rufus King, Patriot, by Marion F. Overton; Balloon Rescue of 1856, by Kate Wheeler Strong; and Line of Courageous Women, by Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood.

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